



# The Pipeline

February 11, 2002  
Volume 2002, Issue 5

## Inside this Issue:

**Louisville Adoption Fair**

**Lieutenant Governor Stephen L. Henry, M.D. Announces Legislation to Address Obesity in Children**

**"Buckle Up Kentucky Month" Proclaimed by Governor Patton**

**Show the Children in Your Life How Much You Love Them: Keep Them Safe**



## Louisville Adoption Fair

If you have ever considered adopting a child, but didn't know how to begin or where to go for information, Feb. 10 is your big day.

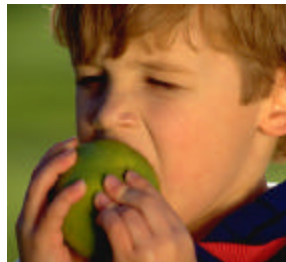


The Louisville Adoption Fair will be held at U of L's Shelby Campus Feb. 10 from 1 to 4 p.m., where information will be available on every aspect of adoption and foster care – from eligibility and preparation to support services after the adoption is complete. Representatives from government agencies, private agencies, and support groups will be on hand to hold workshops, answer questions, and hand out literature.

For more information, contact Judi Spooner at (800)928-4303.

## Lieutenant Governor Stephen L. Henry Announces Legislation to Address Obesity in Children

Lieutenant Governor Stephen L. Henry, M.D., announced legislation on Jan. 31 to improve child nutrition and physical activity. Senator Daniel Mongiardo, M.D. and Senator Tom Buford and Representatives Larry Clark, Tom Burch and Timothy Feeley are sponsors of the bipartisan legislation.



"Today we are raising the most physically unfit generation in Kentucky's history, in fact in our nation's history. We are facing an epidemic of obesity," Henry stated.

The legislation aims to improve standards for school food service directors and cafeteria managers by requiring them to participate in a continuing education program. The legislation would set nutritional standards for foods and beverages sold outside of the national school breakfast and lunch programs vending machines, school stores, and a la carte cafeteria items. Additionally, the proposed legislation would require school lunches to contain at least six grams of naturally occurring fiber per meal.

The bill would require thirty minutes of daily physical activity in public schools. The legislation also calls for a three-year phase - beginning with grades preschool through five in the 2003-2004 school year.

The final component requires the legislature to create a legislative task force to address the obesity epidemic and the consequences of obesity in youth.

Henry created a task force last spring to address type 2 diabetes and overweight in children. The task force includes

diabetes educators and dietitians from local health departments, health care professionals from the University of Kentucky, representatives from various health/advocacy associations, representatives from the KY Department of Public Health, KY Department of Education and KY Department for Medicaid Services and

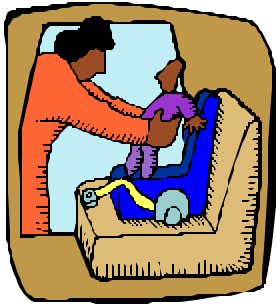
other health care professionals from organizations across the state.

Currently 300,000 Americans die annually from causes related to excess body weight. Surgeon General David Satcher predicts the extra pounds Americans are

carrying could surpass tobacco as the leading cause of preventable death. The number of overweight children has almost doubled in the last two decades, increasing from 7% in 1980 to 13% in 1999. The number of overweight teens has nearly tripled over the same time period, increasing from 5% to 13%.

Henry stated, "Weight problems in children could lead to other health concerns. The problem is not just obesity, it is the health problems obesity can cause, and the health costs attributed to obesity. In 1995, U.S. costs attributable to obesity were estimated at \$99 billion. By 2000, those estimated costs were \$117 billion."

Lieutenant Governor Henry had the support of: Dr. Rice Leach, Commissioner of the KY Department for Public Health; Janey Thornton, Food Service Director for Hardin County Schools and a member of the Kentucky School Food Service Association; Dr. Maria Boosalis (Ph.D.), Associate Professor of Clinical Nutrition at UK; Dr. Lou Heuser, general surgeon in Louisville; Dr. Janet Tietzen (Ph.D.), Associate Professor, and Extension Specialist in Food and Nutrition at UK; and Jordan Blair, a 7<sup>th</sup> grade student at Scott County Middle School who was diagnosed with diabetes type 2 at the age of 9.



## **“Buckle Up Kentucky Month” Proclaimed by Governor Patton**

“Buckle Up Kentucky” Month officially commenced Jan. 31 during a press conference at the Kentucky Clinic on the University of Kentucky campus. Transportation Cabinet Secretary James C. Codell, III read the proclamation for the governor stating, “...whereas, increasing seatbelt usage is the most inexpensive and effective way to reduce our highway death toll and to reduce injuries...therefore, I Paul E. Patton, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, do hereby proclaim February 2002 as Buckle Up Kentucky Month in Kentucky.”

Individuals and organizations throughout the state concerned with highway safety attended the event held at the Kentucky Clinic to demonstrate their of seatbelt usage. Traffic crashes in Kentucky claimed the lives of over 846 people and injured countless others during 2001. Only 29% of those individuals were wearing seatbelts, and it is estimated that at least 200 of these lives would have been saved if they had been wearing one. Kentucky has one of the lowest seatbelt usage rates in the nation at 62%, compared to a national average of 73%.

“Motor vehicle collisions account for the majority of the trauma patients we see at the University and proper restraint use can significantly impact the severity of injury incurred. Unrestrained patients die at twice the rate of those who are restrained,” said Colleen Swartz, R.N., Director of Trauma and Emergency Services, UK Hospital.

The Kentucky State Police, Transportation Cabinet and Governor’s

Coalition for Highway Safety will conduct a variety of educational programs during the month of February, encouraging Kentuckians to buckle up. These educational programs include contests and activities for school age children, special community events and a media campaign. National Child Passenger Safety Week also occurs in February and numerous child safety seat clinics and activities have been scheduled for this time period as well.

“By educating Kentuckians on the value of wearing safety belts, we are taking a proactive approach in preventing vehicle crashes from becoming fatal crashes,” stated Commissioner Ishmon Burks. “Voluntary compliance is the key. The public must understand the importance and actually wear their safety belts.”

Representative Jodie Haydon, sponsor of the primary seatbelt law being considered by the 2002 General Assembly, was also on hand to encourage constituents to contact their legislators about this lifesaving piece of legislation. A primary seatbelt law would allow enforcement officers to effectively enforce Kentucky’s seatbelt law with the goal of increasing usage and saving lives.

“A primary seatbelt law would save approximately 75 lives a year,” said Rep. Haydon. “Tell me, what else can we do that will save so many lives and not cost the people of Kentucky any additional dollars?”

Fayette County Sheriff Kathy Witt echoed Haydon’s remarks, stating, “I applaud Governor Patton for stepping forward to strongly support strengthening his previous legislation on seat belt usage. Without question, this Commonwealth needs to improve upon legislation that could save 75 lives on Kentucky roads each year and cost nothing. I say, “Let’s roll!”

After the press conference, the Governor’s Office For Highway Safety demonstrated it’s rollover simulator to the crowd. The simulator duplicates the traumatic effect that overturning has on vehicle occupants, even at relatively low

speeds. This is one of the many tools the Kentucky State Police uses to reinforce the importance of seatbelt usage. The rollover simulator is especially effective due to the fact that opponents of seatbelts frequently use the argument that by not wearing a seatbelt you may be thrown from a car during a crash and escape injury. However, records indicate that 86% of vehicle occupants who were either totally or partially ejected in car crashes during 2000 were killed.

During the first thirty days of 2002, 74 people have been killed on Kentucky’s roadways. Preliminary reports show that only 25 of these victims were wearing a safety belt.



## **Show the Children in Your Life How Much You Love Them: Keep Them Safe**

CFC Online gives tips for showing your children a special kind of love this Valentine’s Day, the love that keeps them safe from harm. The latest issue of CFC Online addresses many important safety issues for Kentucky’s children.

From common misconceptions to consumer safety, choosing the proper day care and sports-relates injuries, CFC Online covers all of the bases!

CFC also provides information on free publications dealing with the Adoption and Safe Families Act and Foster and Adoptive Parent campaigns.

Follow this link to view the latest issue of CFC Online:

**[CFC Online: January 2002](#)**